

ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY.

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 27 August 1880;—for,

RETURN “showing whether, and in what respects, the Recommendations of the Committee of 1883 on the ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY have been adopted.”

I.—FINANCIAL RECOMMENDATIONS.

THE recommendations as to increased scale of pay, and with respect to pensions; also the deductions for lodging accommodation, with exemption from deduction in certain cases, have been given effect to by the Constabulary and Police (Ireland) Act, 1883; and provision has also been made therein for the post of police instructor at dépôt; and school fees are carried to the credit of the public as recommended.

A lodging allowance of 1 s. per week has been granted to married men of 10 years' service, when not accommodated with quarters for their families in barrack. Existing accommodation for families in barracks has been utilised to the fullest extent, and married men's quarters have been provided for in barracks built by Government, so far as could be done consistently with a due regard to economy in the total cost, to the general plan of the building, and to the extent of accommodation to be provided therein for single men. It has not been found practicable to adopt, generally, the suggestion that existing barracks should be enlarged to accommodate married men, nor to hire buildings for their residence. The latter would be practically tenement houses, entailing much responsibility on the Department to comply with the sanitary and other requirements of local authorities; and the feeling of the force is against compulsory residence in such houses. Where circumstances were favourable; as at the Dépôt, the suggestion to build married men's quarters has been adopted.

The boot allowance has been granted, and the modification of the regulations governing the payment of marching money recommended by the Committee in consideration of the grant of a boot allowance has also been carried out.

The increased rate of extra pay (subsistence allowance) proposed for head constables has been granted; and the rules governing payment of that allowance at the full rate for a night's absence, where such absence extended to 12 hours, and did not terminate before three o'clock a.m., has been modified in the manner recommended.

The recommendations as to the accounts of fuel and light consumed in the guard rooms of stations have been carried out; and the Inspector General has exercised the power of increasing the allowance for fuel and light in every case where, after inquiry, it was found proper to do so.

The Constabulary Force Fund has been investigated and found insolvent. This fund is fed (1) by deductions from the pay of men who were in the force, and from the pensions of pensioners who were contributors to the fund before the 18th June 1883; (2) by certain fines and penalties. The fund is appropriated (1) to gratuities for widows and children of contributors to the fund, and, (2) to rewards, &c., granted to members of the force. The Treasury and the Irish Government have agreed that the fund shall henceforth be resolved into two funds; (1) the reward fund, fed by fines and penalties, and applicable to rewards, &c., which are to be regulated by, and are not to exceed the income of the fund; (2) the fund for widows and children, fed by deductions from the pay or pensions of men contributing to the fund before 18th June 1883, and expended in gratuities to their widows and children. The Exchequer does not contribute towards, and is not responsible for the liabilities of this fund. Any deficiency

deficiency arising upon it could, therefore, in ordinary course, be met either by reduction of the scale of gratuity, or by increase of the deductions above mentioned. The Treasury and the Irish Government, however, have agreed that although such a measure would be equitable in itself, the reason for it would not be readily recognised by contributors, who know that the scale of excessive gratuities was approved by the Government itself. It has been decided in consequence neither to raise the contribution nor to reduce the gratuities (two modifications equitable in their nature, but of small financial importance, being excepted), and the Treasury will ask Parliament to make good the deficiency of the fund, which is estimated at present value to amount to the large sum of 160,000 *l.* or 180,000 *l.* A scheme for that purpose will be laid before the House of Commons.

The recommendations of the Committee as to the clothing of the force have received the most careful consideration. An improved material has been adopted for the summer frock, and paper patterns of proper shape have been obtained which govern the contracts. By this means well-cut garments of proper size are secured, thus enabling the men to be properly fitted, and obviating any ground for complaint. It has not been found practicable to extend the issue of ready-made clothing beyond the frocks above mentioned; nor could the system of purchasing cloth from manufacturers, and having it made up (or cut up as the case might be) under a separate contract be adopted with advantage, or without a considerable increase of cost.

To carry out the recommendations that the members of the force who are *ex-officio* inspectors of weights and measures should be remunerated, legislation was necessary. The necessary powers have been obtained in the Weights and Measures Act, 1889. The Irish Government and the Board of Trade have been in correspondence, and regulations to give effect to that Act in Ireland have now been agreed to, and are being printed; and the fees available under its provisions will be applied to remunerate the *ex-officio* inspectors.

II.—PROMOTION, AND DISCIPLINARY RECOMMENDATIONS.

One-fourth of the vacancies in the rank of district inspector continue to be filled by the promotion of qualified head constables. Under special circumstances, however, that limit has been exceeded as recommended by the Committee, and will again, if sufficient reason appear, be overstepped.

The recommendations as to examination for promotion to the rank of acting sergeant have been adopted. The "special list," in all ranks, has been abolished. The minimum limit of service proposed as qualifying for examination, under select list rules, for the rank of head constable was also adopted, but the "select list" has since been abolished.

Men who have served on the reserve for two years are now entitled, on application, to a transfer to a county force.

The rule requiring that mounted men should be dismounted at the age of 45 has been cancelled as recommended, and to provide against the slowness of promotion caused by this change, mounted constables are now entitled to present themselves for the qualifying examination for promotion in the infantry.

In accordance with the recommendations of the Committee respecting unfavourable records, fines, &c., the maximum fine has been reduced from 5 *l.* to 3 *l.* An unfavourable record is no longer a necessary consequence of a fine, and neither county inspectors' fines, nor head-quarters' admonitions, are recorded. Under ordinary circumstances, a fine is not quoted after five years, and once a man is promoted his past unfavourable records do not count against his future advancement; neither do unfavourable records, if followed by good conduct, affect his pension or gratuity.

Stoppages of pay during illness are abolished.

The senior on duty is no longer held responsible for the misconduct of juniors unless he has connived at it, or been careless.

The prohibition against entering public-houses, when not on duty, has been withdrawn, and the recommendation that wives of men should be at liberty to engage

engage in such business as the authorities might permit has been adopted, and is fully acted on.

The recommendation that officers on courts of inquiry should be sworn, has not been adopted. It was felt that such a provision was unnecessary, and, moreover, would require legislation, which would cast a stigma, quite undeserved, on the officers of the force.

The recommendations of the Committee as to transfer on marriage, distance from barrack to which men may go when off duty, distance from barrack at which men living outside may reside, and that the largest proportion possible of such men be allowed to sleep out, as well as the extension of age in certain cases of children allowed to sleep in barracks have all been adopted.

Sergeants in charge of stations are empowered to give leave for eight hours, and barrack orderlies are permitted to take rest until seven instead of six a.m. The hour of roll call has been fixed at ten p.m. all the year round. Constables at Depot are represented on the Canteen Committee, and the men are permitted to amuse themselves by fishing in their leisure hours.

NOTE.—In this Return the designations "District Inspector," "Constable," "Acting Sergeant," and "Sergeant," are used instead of "Sub-Inspector," "Sub-Constable," "Acting Constable," and "Constable," respectively, as provided by Section 12 of the Constabulary and Police (Ireland) Act, 1883.

13 August 1890.

(signed) *A. Reid,*
Inspector General.

TOTAL TIME COMPLETED

RETURN showing whether, and in what respect, the Recommendations of the Committee of 1991 to the Bureau have been adopted.






Entered in The Place of Business, as is Prescribed,
by Chapter 180.

FILED BY: JAMES M. HARRIS, JR.
JAMES M. HARRIS, JR.
JAMES M. HARRIS, JR.

Downloaded At: 11:53 11 September 2009

DR. J. P. KIRKPATRICK, President, NPT
JAMES EARL RAY, Jr., Secretary, NPT
and Executive Director, FBI

Figure 1

104

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99